

My name is Tracy Bier, executive director, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. Our group represents hundreds of physicians and health professionals around the state of Washington. WPSR is opposed to any type of coal production, transport or handling in our state. Physicians for Social Responsibility has done research on the effect of coal on human health. We believe the damage and costs to human health far surpasses any financial or economic benefits of any project such as Gateway. It is imperative that a Health Impact Assessment be conducted.

We would not allow corporations introduce medicines or equipment into our hospitals that will make people sicker and die more --- why would we allow corporations to introduce a process that will do this?

Major health impacts from coal are primarily caused by particulate matter from truck and train engines, leading to increased and new cases of diseases and illnesses as well as making worse already existing diseases and illnesses. Only a few examples include:

- Increasing complications and death from cardiovascular disease
- Increasing asthma cases and worsening of already existing cases
- Poor lung function in children and increased infant mortality

Consider who are the most vulnerable to the problems caused by coal emissions and coal transport:

Children, the elderly, anyone with pre-existing lung conditions, asthma, emphysema, diabetics --- this is millions and millions of people in our state!

In addition to particulate matter, the commerce of coal in our state will introduce increased levels of noise pollution

And on top of particulate matter and noise pollution, the longer wait times at railroad crossings is estimated to contribute significantly to more deaths in our state.

In summary, we believe that no amount of jobs or economic improvement factors justify the extreme damage to human health caused by any new coal commerce in our state. And there should be no further action on any of the current coal proposals by corporations until a Health Impact Assessment is conducted.

Please contact us for more information if we can help

Tracy Bier

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility